

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SY-04

USSS-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-01 JUSE-00

FBIE-00 L-02 AF-06 INRE-00 /052 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9050

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DEPT PASS NSC

DEPT PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJ: EPS COVERAGE AT ETHIOPIAN MISSION

REF: USUN 145

1. IN REFTEL (PARA 2), USUN INDICATED THAT, ALTHOUGH EPS COVERAGE OF ETHIOPIAN MISSION COULD BE SUSPENDED JAN 31, IT MIGHT HAVE TO BE REINSTITUTED ON SHORT NOTICE. USUN FEELS OBLIGED TO MAKE SUCH A REQUEST AT THIS TIME.

2. ALTHOUGH EPS COVERAGE OF ETHIOPIAN MISSION WAS CONTINUED BEYOND JAN 31, USUN WAS NOTIFIED AFTERNOON FEB 4 BY EPS COMMAND POST NEW YORK OF RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR HEADQUARTERS TO DISCONTINUE EXISTING COVERAGE AT ETHIOPIAN MISSION THIS DATE. NO SOONER HAD THIS INFORMATION BEEN RECEIVED WHEN DEPUTY PERMREP TADESSE TELEPHONED USUN. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT EPS COVERAGE WAS BEING WITHDRAWN FROM HIS MISSION AND HE WAS REQUESTING THAT IT BE MAINTAINED. IN HIS PLEA FOR MAINTENANCE OF EPS COVERAGE, TADESSE REMARKED "NOW IS THE WORST TIME TO REMOVE IT." HE THEN REFERRED

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TO RECENT SHARP INCREASE IN HOSTILITIES BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN

AND ERITREAN FIGHTING FORCES.

3. BECAUSE OF THE MANY ACCOUNTS IN THE MEDIA OF INCREASED FIGHTING IN NORTHERN PROVINCE OF ETHIOPIA AND THE EFFECT THAT THESE ACCOUNTS CAN HAVE ON ETHIOPIAN STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT IN US, BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, USUN SUPPORTS ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EPS COVERAGE AT THEIR MISSION AND REQUESTS IT BE RESUMED BOB FEB 5.

4. THE NEED FOR ABOVE COVERAGE WILL BE UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW.
BENNETT

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